



Lesson Summaries

SOCIAL STUDIES

Lesson

UNIT – Relationship with Significant Others

Lesson

2

Methods of Communication in the Family

INTRODUCTION

Communication can be defined as: The process of human beings responding to the symbolic behaviour of others. Since the definition refers to responding we must take a moment to consider response or what can be simply called feedback. Feedback is any noticeable reaction to a person's behaviour and can either be verbal, non- verbal or written. The above statements show us clearly that there are many different ways in which a person can communicate. Effective communication must certainly lead to the establishing of strong families.

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- a) Write a definition for "communication"
- b) List different forms of communication
- c) Identify different forms of communication in a given situation.



GETTING STARTED

Take a moment now to write down what you consider to be four characteristics of a strong family. You may wish to compare your suggestions with the list given below. Strong families:

- 1. are committed to the family
- 2. spend time together
- 3. have good family communication
- 4. express appreciation to each other
- 5. are able to solve problems in a crisis.

TYPES OF COMMUNICATION

Verbal Communication: This involves the process of a person or sender changing his thoughts or ideas into words in order to send a spoken or written message to someone else or a receiver. It is only when the receiver responds that we can determine if effective communication has taken place. Family members must make an extra effort to use words that would help to encourage, support and comfort each other at all times.

Non- Verbal Communication: Included in non- verbal communication are things like facial expression, gestures, posture, and tone of voice. The fact that non- verbal communication may not always be intentional does not remove the reality that a message could be sent and a person's response in a given situation might be based upon cues received non- verbally.



ACTIVITY 1

Relate at least two instances when you misunderstood someone because of facial expression and tone of voice. Explain your reaction to the situation and state how the matter was resolved.



ACTIVITY 2

State four ways in which family members can use tone of voice and facial expressions to improve communication in the home.